

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
U.S. APPLICATION NO. 09/556,349  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CA1055

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 7, 9, 31, 37, 39 and 73-106 have been examined on their merits.

Applicants herein cancel claims 77, 78, 80-82, 94, 95 and 97-99 without prejudice and or disclaimer, and herein add their recitations to independent claims 1 and 31.

Claims 1, 7, 9, 31, 37, 39 and 73-76, 79, 83-93, 96 and 100-106 are all the claims presently pending in the application.

1. Claims 1, 7, 9, 31, 37, 73-79, 85-89, 90-96 and 102-106 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ratakonda (U.S. Patent No. 5,956,026) in view of Lim (U.S. Patent No. 6,574,378). The rejection of claims 77, 78, 94 and 95 is now moot due to their cancellation. Applicants traverse the § 103(a) rejection of claims 1, 7, 9, 31, 37, 73-76, 79, 85-89, 90-93, 96 and 102-106 for at least the reasons discussed below.

With respect to independent claim 1, the Patent Office has indicated that claims 82-84 are objected to, but would otherwise be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants herein cancel claims 77, 78, 80, 81 and 82, and amend independent claim 1 with their recitations. Applicants submit that claim 1 is now in condition for allowance, and further submit that claims 7, 9, 73-76, 79 and 85-89 are allowable as well, at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1. Applicants respectfully request that the Patent Office reconsider and withdraw the § 103(a) rejection of claims 1, 7, 9, 73-76, 79 and 85-89.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
U.S. APPLICATION NO. 09/556,349  
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With respect to independent claim 31, the Patent Office has indicated that claims 99-101 are objected to, but would otherwise be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants herein cancel claims 94, 95, 97, 98 and 99, and amend independent claim 31 with their recitations. Applicants submit that claim 31 is now in condition for allowance, and further submit that claims 37, 39, 90-93, 96 and 102-106 are allowable as well, at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 31. Applicants request that the Patent Office reconsider and withdraw the § 103(a) rejection of claims 31, 37, 39, 90-93, 96 and 102-106.

2. Claims 80 and 81 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ratakonda in view of Lim, and in further view of Uchihachi *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,535,639). The rejection of claims 80 and 81 is now moot due to their cancellation.

3. Claims 81 and 98 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ratakonda in view of Lim, and in further view of Uchihachi *et al.*, and in further view of Wang *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,805,733). The rejection of claims 81 and 98 is now moot due to their cancellation.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
U.S. APPLICATION NO. 09/556,349  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CA1055

4. Claims 86-89 and 103-106 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ratakonda in view of Lim, and in further view of Castelli *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,122,628). Applicants traverse the § 103(a) rejection of claims 86-89 and 103-106 for at least the reasons discussed below.

Claims 86-89 depend from independent claim 1, and therefore include all of its recitations by virtue of their dependency. As noted above, Applicants have amended claim 1 with the recitations of cancelled claims 77, 78, 80, 81 and 82, which the Patent Office has indicated as allowable. Since claim 1 is now in condition for allowance, claims 86-89 are allowable as well, at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1. Applicants respectfully request that the Patent Office reconsider and withdraw the § 103(a) rejection of claims 86-89.

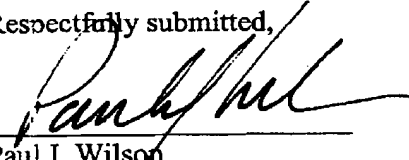
Claims 103-106 depend from independent claim 31, and therefore include all of its recitations by virtue of their dependency. As noted above, Applicants have amended claim 31 with the recitations of cancelled claims 94, 95, 97, 98 and 99, which the Patent Office has indicated as allowable. Since claim 31 is now in condition for allowance, claims 103-106 are allowable as well, at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 31. Applicants respectfully request that the Patent Office reconsider and withdraw the § 103(a) rejection of claims 103-106.

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U.S. APPLICATION NO. 09/556,349  
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In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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